



# THE COURIER



## Northeast Ohio Civil War Round Table



**Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Meeting #118**

**Dino's Restaurant at I90 & State Rt. 306 Willoughby, Ohio**

**Guest Speaker: Richard Muny**

**Topic: "Small Arms of the American Civil War"**

**Canteen at 6:00 pm      Dinner at 7:00 pm      Guests are welcome**

**Reservations required      Please call Steve Abbey**

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**Richard P. Muny** was born in Cleveland and grew up in East Cleveland, graduating from Shaw High School in 1958. His father and grandfather worked in Lakeview Cemetery where they served as its Horticulturists for over 70 years. Since a house went with the job he spent his childhood living in a cemetery. He has been very active in the Shaw Hi reunions and has kept in contact with many of his Shaw friends.

He graduated with a BS in chemistry from Westminster College (PA) and that is where he met his wife Judy. Subsequent to graduation from Westminster, he was certified in specific programs in polymer science at the University of Akron, South London Polytechnic (England), University of Missouri at Rolla, U. of Utah, and Case Western.

Most of his professional Career was spent in the Adhesives industry where he led R&D groups at LORD Corp. in Erie PA and Avery Dennison in Holland and Painesville. In 1981 he started his entrepreneurial carrier and has started 3 different successful ventures including the printing industry (Cardinal Fastprint), Pharmaceutical Research (Amaric Corp.), and laundries (Salus Corp.). He now is managing partner of Muny Family Ltd. Partnership (real estate) and President of Chemsultants International Inc. Chemsultants is a 25 year old company he started in 1986 in partnership with his son Keith, daughter Jennifer and wife Judy. Chemsultants has over 40 employees and has been recognized as one of the fastest growing companies in Lake and Geauga counties for over 15 of those years. He also holds several patents for high tech adhesives and participated in the development of the ink jet cartridge, liquid crystal technology, Hydrogen Fuel cells, drug delivery patches, and Laparoscopic surgical procedures.

Mr. Muny has been active on many boards over the years including, Big Brothers, Riverside school system (Past. Pres.), Lake County Historical society, Hope Ridge Church, Wettermann Industries, and Island Towers in FL. He is also an ordained elder of the Presbyterian Church. Hobbies include Woodworking, Clock collecting, Gun collecting, Antique cars, and German culture. As a collector of firearms he has developed a group of Civil war guns that can be handled by the audience and this presentation serves as a teaching tool for the understanding of the evolution of small arms of the civil war.

**14<sup>th</sup> PRESIDENT'S CIVIL WAR JOURNAL by Franco M. Sperrazzo Sept. 13, 2011**



**Summer Picnic Gottscheer E.O.U.V. German Club August 14:**

Twenty two members and two guests enjoyed a grand old time of good ethnic food, traditional music, period costumes, dancing and a host of thematic competition, all in good fun. There were German horn blowing, yodeling, door prizes, dancing, a raffle and more. When the smoke cleared, our own Theodore J. Karle (pronounced car-lee by the Gottscheer club president Joe Sieder) was honored as Jaegermeister Man of the Year 2011. Ted will wear his awarded shirt at our next N.E.O.C.W.R.T. meeting. J. Mike Sears has graciously submitted his photos to prove it. A special thanks to Joe Sieder, staff of Hilda Kramer, Hilda Kobetitsch and those who made us feel so welcomed on their day of celebration. Ms. Kobetitsch sent me a calendar of

events for the remainder of 2011, which John Sandy will include in this month's Courier for those who care to attend.

**Badges and Business Cards:** Recently Steve Abbey and I signed off on our club I.D. cards that you will be able to personalize. They were impressively done by Copy Max at Great Lakes Mall. Thanks to Jennifer Bollas for her design layout. Also to Mike Driscoll for his connection that gave us the best price and to all the executive committee members who gave ideas allowing us to complete this project. Arlan Byrne will be presenting I.D. badges to N.E.O.C.W.R.T. charter members and executive officers. He and son Alan Byrne have made attractive badges and name tags similar to what the founders now wear.

**Membership Directory and Information Packet:** Thanks to the efforts of Tirpak, London and Baucher, Members Abbey, Sears and Byrne we will be dispersing this informative guide. It includes our Club's glorious history, constitution, directory, legacy project, field trip, speaker programs and more. The due diligence involved in making this happen has been in the works since winter 2010. I want to extend my appreciation to all who gave of their time and talents in superb fashion.



**Medical and Sympathy Report:** Our members wish to express their condolences to Steve Abbey on the passing of his older brother Michael earlier this summer. Steve and wife Roberta attended services in nearby Slippery Rock, Pa. where his brother resided. We are glad to have our September program speaker Dick Muny back in good health, following a medical set back and able to present his September program on schedule.

**New Fall Trip Emerging Oct.21-23:** George E. Deutsch, honorary member, has stepped to the plate to help develop a two plus day event at Gettysburg National Military Park. He has collaborated with a group from Edinboro College. Sandy, Karle, Byrne and Franco have met many of these people when visiting the Erie Civil War Round Table. This is a non – sanctioned event, therefore there is no minimum number of members

or guests needed. Nor is a deposit required of those electing to attend. Thus far, nine or ten members have expressed an interest. Participants would be responsible for their own hotel accommodations and transportation.

We will dove-tail with the Edinboro group. George Deutsch will be providing a more specific itinerary. We will be responsible for our own hotel reservations, dinners and transportation. At our September 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, Ted and Norty will announce more specific areas explored and will pass around a sign –up roster to obtain a head count for the Edinboro people. Initial unconfirmed itinerary as follows:

Friday Oct. 21 – Gettysburg special area previously closed to the public now part of private tour  
Orchestrated by George Deutsch and Gettysburg Park historian John Heiser.  
Dinner at 6:30 at the Dobbins house.

Saturday Oct 22 - Three programs sponsored by Edinboro College.  
Dinner at 6:30pm at Norty’s favorite eatery Herr Ridge Tavern.

Sunday Oct 23 - Brunch and closing talk by Deutsch on Barksdale’s attack on the second day.

Note: Restaurant phone numbers will be obtained to secure reservations so we can dine together.

Edinboro group will stay at the Quality Inn Gettysburg Motor Lodge, 380 Steinwier Ave.

Phone: (717) 334- 1103. Room rate \$119 based on double occupancy two nights needed.

James A. Garfield National Historic Site: This September 10 and 11<sup>th</sup> is the second annual encampment and reenactment. The family friendly grounds at Lawnfield in Mentor will educate (Civil War medicine demonstrate military drills, entertain with live music, sutlers’ shops and feed you well. Tour the historic home, meet President Lincoln, James and Lucretia Garfield on Saturday September 10 and Sunday September 11<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am until 5:00pm. Admission is free.

**September 13<sup>th</sup> Richard Muny:** Will kick off the fall season with an impressive 20 gun collection. We are grateful to have him as a club member since 2008. Ted Karle will reflect his long time friendship with Dick since high school. Wife Judy will coordinate our Spring outing in May 2012. – President Franco



## “Divine Providence”

During our nation’s early history the phrase “*Divine Providence*” was frequently used in official documents, letters, and verbal conversations. What does it mean? The meaning is clear, concise and powerful: “*The Hand of God is at work in all things*”

This phrase it is rarely used today. However, I mention it because I truly believe that “*Divine Providence*” was present and at work during the American Revolution.

Names such as Washington, Adams, Franklin, Hamilton, Jefferson and Madison, have all been identified as our Founding Brothers. This group was our “Revolutionary Generation”. Also, as you know, this group was collaborative at times, and at times highly contentious! Historians like Joseph Ellis, James Flexner and David McCullough refer to our Founders as the greatest generation of political talent in American history.

These founders collectively created our American Republic. They held it together throughout the volatile early years and they had the courage to pledge their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor, to the cause of liberty. Subsequently, during the Civil War, Lincoln too, used “Divine Providence” on a number of occasions. His Cabinet could also be collaborative, and at other times highly contentious. Lincoln did believe in a higher power than himself. He intuitively understood: “The hand of God was at work in all things.”

However, my focus is primarily upon General Washington and how he and his “rag-tag” army somehow won the war and gained our Independence from England. Regardless of your religious convictions there is no rational explanation of how we beat England without out some very special help from somewhere? Some logical explanation of how this was achieved is in order.

Joseph J. Ellis, when speaking about the American Revolution said: “*No event in American history which was so improbable at the time has seemed so inevitable in retrospect as the American Revolution.*” What did Ellis mean? Well, if history is our guide, here was the setting: England was a world power. It ruled the seas! England’s land holdings and colonies throughout the world were vast. The monies derived through taxes, and tariffs and other revenues were huge.

We, on the other hand, were a small “fledging” colony of thirteen states with nothing more than a “rag-tag” army. Our meager financial resources were almost exhausted. Our army was poorly trained, poorly equipped, poorly fed, poorly funded and yes, poorly disciplined. Yet, in spite of these two immensely contrasting situations, we did achieve our Independence from England. How could this be? Is it possible that “*Divine Providence*” was somehow at work? Our history would suggest that the answer might be yes!

Let’s look at George Washington more closely. He was clearly the Father of our Country. He was the undisputed leader of our quest for Independence. During our nation’s struggle with England he had two horses shot-out from under him. He and his army were under heavy fire on multiple occasions. He had bullet holes pierce his great coat and crease his uniform. Yet he survived. He went into battle many times, clearly outnumbered and outfought by the well-trained “Redcoats.”



What evidence is there to suggest that “*Divine Providence*” was at work? Many historians consider the greatest single battle of the Revolutionary War occurred on Aug 27, 1776. Gen. Howe with 22,000 “Redcoats” focused his attention on capturing New York City. At that time NYC was just the southern tip of Manhattan Island. Howe and his troops drove the Americans to Brooklyn Heights, right to the edge of the East River. Washington and his soldiers were trapped. There was no escape. The war should have ended right then and there. However, it did not! Why? Does anyone recall the strange set of circumstances that occurred?

Suddenly and without warning, a heavy fog rolled into the area. A fog so heavy, you could not see a face directly in front of you. The “Redcoats” could not see us and we could not see them. However, this heavy fog served us very well. Washington and his troops were able to escape across the East River during the night to safety. It took all night to do this. Our army, such as it was, lived to fight another day.

Amazingly, General Washington accomplished this without a significant loss of life or material. Was “*Divine Providence*” at work? How likely was this heavy fog to happen on August 27, 1776, at this specific time, and in this specific place? And yet the fog came! The more I study American history the more convinced I become of some guiding hand, or if you wish, “*Divine Providence*” at work.

George Washington was clearly the key figure of the Revolutionary era of the 1770’s thru the 1790’s. His achievements were heroic:

- Eight years as the head of the Continental Army

- The presiding officer of the Constitutional Convention in 1787 (During his address he said: “Let us raise a standard to which the wise and honest can aspire, the rest is in the hands of God”

- Our First President and the first to serve two terms

- Ellis referred to him historically as: “*Our one and only indispensable character*”!

Here is a quote by General Washington long after the struggle for Independence had been won. I have paraphrased it for brevity and ease of understanding: “*If we had a secret resource unknown to our enemy, it was the unconquerable resolve of our citizens that our cause was just, and a confident trust that Heaven would not forsake us!*”

I have often pondered how we could have had such great leadership during this fragile time in our nation’s history. We have been blessed with leadership of men like George Washington and the Founding Brothers. During our Civil War from 1861 to 1865 the North was blessed to have Abraham Lincoln as our sixteenth President. Let us hope and pray that we continue to find the Leadership that has made this nation great and that “*Divine Providence*” will again be there to bless this nation.



JET

## ***Digging Up Butch and Sundance* by Anne Meadows – a book review by Tom Horvath**



Author Anne Meadows and her husband Dan Duke took a book about Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid with them to the Patagonian region of Argentina. Residents were able to show them the cabin that Butch and Sundance, along with Sundance's girlfriend, Etta Place, used for the years they spent in that region trying to go straight after a very successful career as outlaws in the United States. They were assured that this was their cabin. One could tell by the windows.

Fascinated by what they found, when they returned to the United States, and Dan Duke dug more deeply into the outlaws' careers. What he discovered were some very interesting people. Butch and Sundance were indeed outlaws, and both spent time in prison, but even the Pinkerton agents who chased them admitted that they were gentlemen bandits, having killed very few people considering the number of holdups and robberies they had committed. Cassidy claimed that he had never robbed individuals, only companies that could easily afford to lose the money they took.

Ms. Meadows was not immediately taken with the prospect of doing more research into the pair's lives in South America, but when her husband showed her what he had found, she was hooked. Over the space of the next seven years, the couple travelled back and forth to South America – through Argentina, Chile, and Bolivia – searching out previously undiscovered documents and stories about the lives and supposed death of Butch and Sundance. This book is the story of their search.

There is no lack of stories about the outlaws. Many people and stories claim that one or both survived their stay in South America and returned to the United States and/or Europe and performed many amazing acts. There were people who claimed to be Butch or Sundance, or their direct descendants. Some of the stories were totally outlandish, but others could have been true. They collected them all because they were part of the search. Sorting out what really happened became something of an obsession with the author and her husband. The key to determining whether the pair survived was the reported gunfight with Bolivian soldiers. Did Butch and Sundance really die in a fight with Bolivian soldiers, low on ammunition, guns blazing as the movie *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* depicted?

The trail of papers was not a straight one, nor was it easy to follow. Documents were lost or destroyed. South American bureaucracy sent them searching from city to city, sometimes in vain. People behind the counter swore books didn't exist – when the author had scrutinized them the previous trip. In one instance, the documents they wanted were in one city, but the information required to retrieve them was in indexes in another city hundreds of miles away – and the bureaucrats in the second city claimed the indexes did not exist or were in the first city. Another time, people swore there were no historic documents -- until, at the last minute, someone added, "Unless you mean...", which were the exact documents they wanted. Other documents were taken by previous investigators who never published their findings. Documents previously dismissed as fabrications become much more plausible as new information is discovered.

It is a tangled, convoluted chase that includes pneumonia, hangovers, roads with sheer drops, and a wealth of characters, real and historical. There are so many players in a real life search of this kind, that there were a couple of occasions where the names were only vaguely familiar and the places become a jumble, but that did not really detract from the overall understanding of the story. The writing is good and flows nicely. Part travelogue, part history, but mostly real life historical mystery, the book held my interest and kept me coming back for more. If you'd like a little light reading and have any interest in Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, I'd recommend picking this book up. It runs to 388 pages, but the physical volume is small and is a relatively quick read. But be forewarned, this is a true story and the events in question took place over 100 years ago. This type of mystery does not end with a confession and all of the pieces may not fit neatly into place. In fact, it may end without a definitive answer to the questions.

Published by St. Martin's Press in 1994, each chapter has a selective map of the area and places covered in that chapter. There is a partial list of sources (the complete list would be too long to publish), an index, and a section of photographs, both historic and contemporary. Amazon has a paperback version of the second edition (I read the first edition) for \$24.95 while Barnes and Noble has the same volume for \$23.46. Mentor Library has a hardcover copy of the first edition, and the ClevNet System has one copy of the second edition and four copies of the first edition.